

Organising Paragraphs within Texts

If Lydia thought being thrown into the back of a police van and driven off to Holloway Jail was the height of her struggles, she was gravely mistaken.

Sentenced to a month for vandalism, she had anticipated being labelled as a political prisoner and expected to continue the writing that had helped her drum up support for her cause. Instead, it was in jail where her struggles really began. It wasn't so much the cramped conditions that drained her spirit, though these did bring their own struggles, it was the lack of opportunity to continue her work that pained Lydia terribly.

Due to her imprisonment in general population, Lydia was never allowed to do anything that political prisoners would have been able to do. Most importantly, she could not continue the struggle on behalf of her fellow suffragettes still out in the world.

On the other hand, perhaps there was something that Lydia could do. She could emphasise the importance of her struggle, and of the struggle of all her fellow suffragettes. The only way she could think of achieving this was through hunger strike. Lydia refused any meal. She suffered, she struggled, and she lived through pain. News of this struggle was sure to reach the outside world and Lydia felt that certain she could still make a meaningful contribution to her cause!

Meanwhile, the guards, on seeing this scheme begin to come to fruition, began preparing their plans...

1. List the adverbials used to open the fourth and final paragraphs.

2. Which word is repeated through the fourth paragraph to emphasise it as a key word in the narrative?

3. True or false? If the third and fourth paragraphs were swapped, the story would still make sense.

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The letter that began this mysterious tale arrived by the first morning post. It was addressed simply to 'The Great Detective'. An address which was taken to mean only one possible intended audience, that of Inspector Medford, a famous inspector known also for her work in taking on investigations through her private detective agency.

Presently, Inspector Medford was seated in her home on Cook Street, looking over notes on a recent mystery in the city. She was on the verge of a breakthrough when her housekeeper burst into the room unexpectedly.

"I'm...so sorry, Ma'am, sorry to interrupt your work, but, this... an urgent message has been sent for you," stammered Mr. Hudson. "It came in from a mysterious looking youth, but I think it may be from Scotland Yard, Ma'am. It says they need you right away!"

Without hesitation, Medford rose to her feet, looked at Mr. Hudson and calmly informed him that she was aware of the message arriving. "I expect it will be about the mystery surrounding the damaging of the crown at the Palace, I already have a theory on this one," she stated.

Understandably, Mr. Hudson was stunned. "How could you possibly already know all of that?" he blurted.

4. Rewrite the sentences below, changing the adverbials without changing the meaning.

Presently, Inspector Medford was seated in her home on Cook Street, looking over notes on a recent mystery in the city.
Understandably, Mr. Hudson was stunned.

5. Write the next two sentences in the story, starting with the sentence opener below.

Slowly,

6. Why might the writer have chosen to repeat the word mystery throughout the text?